

Mass.: Dept. of Civil Service and
Registration : Division of Registration.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN NURSING

ANNUAL REPORT

1966

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THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN NURSING

ANNUAL REPORT, FISCAL 1966

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The Board of Registration in Nursing is required by statute to "make an annual report of the condition of nursing in the commonwealth." This document represents the Board's attempt to comply with section 78, chapter 112, General Laws of Massachusetts. The report covers the fiscal year period July 1, 1965 through June 30, 1966.

PURPOSE AND FUNCTIONS OF BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN NURSING

As an administrative agency within the governmental organization of the commonwealth, the Board of Registration in Nursing has been delegated responsibility for the implementation of those statutes and sections of statutes that provide legal control of nursing practice. The fundamental purpose of the Board, therefore, is to safeguard the welfare of the citizens of the commonwealth whenever such citizens are in situations that require the services of professional and practical nurses.

In fulfilling its purpose, the Board has two major functions: (1) licensure of professional and practical nurses and (2) determination and maintenance of educational standards in nursing that are basic to licensure.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD

Qualifications for membership on the Board of Registration in Nursing are established by Section 13, Chapter 13, General Laws of Massachusetts, as amended.

The twelve member Board consists of five registered nurses, one licensed practical nurse, two hospital administrators, two qualified physicians, and two hospital trustees. Members are appointed by the Governor for six year terms.

Membership during the period covered by the report is outlined in Table 1,

| <u>Name of Member</u> | <u>Representation</u> |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Agnes E. Callahan, R.N. | Public Health Nursing |
| Harold A. Callahan | Hospital Administration |
| Helen M. Curtis, R.N. | Diploma Nursing Education |
| Hazelle Ferguson, R.N. | Nursing Service Administration |
| Eleanor A. Gaffney, R.N. | Practical Nursing Education |
| Catherine T. Garrity, L.P.N. | Practical Nursing |
| Clive Hockmeyer | Hospital Trustees |
| Clinton N. Koufman, M.D. | Medical Profession |
| Mary A. Maher, R.N. | Collegiate Nursing Education |
| Paul Parks | Hospital Trustees |
| Nathan E. Silbert, M.D. | Medical Profession |
| R. Ashton Smith | Hospital Administration |

TABLE 1: Membership, Board of Registration in Nursing

The chairman is elected by Board members at the annual meeting. Eleanor A. Gaffney, R.N. served as chairman during the period covered by the report.

MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

There were ten regular meetings and one special meeting of the Board of Registration in Nursing during the fiscal year 1965-66. A quorum was established at each meeting except the Annual Meeting held on October 20, 1965.

The special meeting was held on April 29, 1966 for the purpose of clarifying Board action relative to evaluation of foreign nurses for certification prior to immigration.

Minutes of each meeting are on file at the Board of Registration in Nursing office.

The Board conducted one executive session during the period covered by the report.

LICENSURE

REGISTRATION OF PROFESSIONAL NURSES

Five examination sessions consisting of two days each were conducted during the 1965-66 period. A total of 1967 persons were examined, including 72 foreign nurses.

2358 original certificates of registration were issued, 1463 through examination and 895 through endorsement by another board of nursing.

In addition, 60,592 renewal registrations were issued. Thus, a total of 62,950 professional nurses were registered in Massachusetts during fiscal 1966.

Table 2 provides a comparison of the number of registration certificates issued annually for a five year period.

| <u>Fiscal Year</u> | <u>Original Registrations</u> | | <u>Renewal Registrations</u> | <u>Total Registrations</u> |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | <u>Examination</u> | <u>Endorsement</u> | | |
| 1962 | 1722 | 563 | 54,037 | 56,322 |
| 1963 | 1837 | 709 | 56,507 | 59,053 |
| 1964 | 1914 | 706 | 59,170 | 61,790 |
| 1965 | 1901 | 874 | 59,862 | 62,637 |
| 1966 | 1463 | 895 | 60,592 | 62,950 |

TABLE 2 Comparison of Number of Professional Nurse Registration Certificates Issued Annually for Five Consecutive Years, 1962-66

The decrease in the number of original certificates issued through examination during fiscal 1966 does not reflect a true statistic. Previously an examination was conducted during the last month of the fiscal year. During calendar 1966 the examination was conducted in July, the first month of the new fiscal year. Data relative to the candidates who wrote this examination will be included in the next annual report.

The five-year comparison definitely demonstrates an increase in original registrations through endorsement and in renewal registrations. The latter statistic reflects, at least in part, the number of inactive registered nurses who have activated their licenses, presumably to return to nursing employment.

LICENSING OF PRACTICAL NURSES

Five examination sessions of one day each were conducted during fiscal 1966 for the purpose of licensing practical nurses with 651 candidates being examined.

A total of 721 original certificates of licensure were issued to practical nurses, 597 through examination and 124 through endorsement. 16,721 renewal licenses were issued so that a total of 17,442 practical nurse licenses were issued during fiscal 1966.

The summer examination for practical nurse licensing, like the examination for registration of professional nurses, was held in July, 1966 rather than June, a fact that tends to distort the statistics for this fiscal year.

A comparison of the number of practical nurses licensed each year for five consecutive years is presented in Table 3.

| <u>Fiscal Year</u> | <u>Original Licenses</u> | | <u>Renewal Licenses</u> | <u>Total Licenses</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| | <u>Examination</u> | <u>Endorsement</u> | | |
| 1962 | 641 | 52 | 14,468 | 15,161 |
| 1963 | 706 | 53 | 15,619 | 16,378 |
| 1964 | 808 | 65 | 15,930 | 16,803 |
| 1965 | 847 | 96 | 16,842 | 17,785 |
| 1966 | 597 | 124 | 16,721 | 17,442 |

TABLE 3 Comparison of Number of Practical Nurse Licenses Issued Annually for Five Consecutive Years, 1962-66.

PROFESSIONAL NURSE LICENSING EXAMINATION

Of the total number of candidates (1967) who wrote the professional nurse licensing examination 428 candidates were repeating one or more of the five tests comprising the examination, 76 candidates were graduates of schools of professional nursing located in states other than Massachusetts, and 72 were graduates of nursing schools located in foreign countries. The following foreign countries were represented by examinees: England, Ireland Canada, Brazil, France, Holland, Israel, Panama, Portugal, Puerto Rico, and Thailand.

1163 candidates or 74.3% of the total number of candidates passed the professional nurse licensing examination. Table 4 demonstrates the percent of candidates passing the examination according to the three sources of examinees.

| <u>Source of Candidates</u> | <u>Percent Passing Examination</u> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Graduates, Massachusetts Schools | 75.8 |
| Graduates, Out-of-State schools | 90.7 |
| Graduates, Out-of-Country Schools | 27.7 |
| Total Candidates | 74.3 |

TABLE 4 Percent of Professional Nursing Licensing Examination Candidates Who Passed Examination, According to Source of Candidates

The Board of Registration in Nursing administers the State Board Test Pool Licensing Examinations available from the National League for Nursing Evaluation Service. Annual statistical data provided by that organization permits the Board to compare examination performance of new graduates of Massachusetts schools of professional nursing with the performance of candidates nationally.

Table 5 provides the mean standard scores for the nation and for Massachusetts in each of the five tests comprising the professional nurse licensing examination for 1964 and 1965. The rank placement of Massachusetts within fifty one United States jurisdictions is also demonstrated in Table 5.

| <u>Name of Nursing Test</u> | <u>Standard Score Means</u> | | | | <u>Massachusetts Rank Placement/51 U.S. Jurisdictions</u> | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|---|-------------|
| | <u>National</u> | | <u>Massachusetts</u> | | <u>1965</u> | <u>1964</u> |
| | <u>1965</u> | <u>1964</u> | <u>1965</u> | <u>1964</u> | | |
| Medical | 519.0 | 514.0 | 509.0 | 505.7 | 27 | 27 |
| Surgical | 515.5 | 507.1 | 501.9 | 496.6 | 36 | 32 |
| Obstetrics | 518.4 | 516.2 | 493.4 | 508.0 | 44 | 31 |
| Children | 525.6 | 516.2 | 501.4 | 489.0 | 41 | 50 |
| Psychiatric | 520.2 | 513.3 | 489.4 | 475.1 | 47 | 47 |

TABLE 5 Annual Statistical Data for 1964 and 1965, Professional Nurse Licensing Examination

Data contained in Table 5 shows that the Massachusetts mean standard score (average) fell below the National Mean in each of the five tests during each of the years studied. The state mean, however, in 1965 showed an increase over that for each test in 1964, obstetric nursing excepted.

PRACTICAL NURSE LICENSING EXAMINATION

Of the 651 candidates who wrote the practical nurse licensing examination, 618 were graduates of approved schools of practical nursing located in the commonwealth, 38 were repeating the examination, 3 were graduates of U.S. schools of practical nursing located outside of Massachusetts, and 4 were graduates of schools located outside of the United States.

90.1% of the total practical nurse candidates passed the examination while 92.0% of the graduates of Massachusetts schools of practical nursing passed the examination during the fiscal year.

The State Board Test Pool Practical Nurse Licensing Examination consists of one test administered in two parts. Therefore, only one score is obtained by each candidate. Annual statistical data provided by the NLN Evaluation Service for 1965 showed the following:

| | |
|--|-------|
| National Standard Score Mean | 505.9 |
| Massachusetts Standard Score Mean | 477.5 |
| Massachusetts Rank Placement/ 50 U.S. Jurisdictions | 40 |

CERTIFIED STATEMENTS ISSUED TO OTHER BOARDS OF NURSING

Licensure through endorsement requires that the Board of Nursing in the state of original licensure provide a certified statement verifying that license to the Board of Nursing in the state in which the individual is making application for registration as a professional nurse or license as a practical nurse without examination.

During fiscal 1966, the Board of Registration in Nursing issued a total of 2,060 certified statements to other Boards of Nursing, 1791 for registered nurses and 269 for licensed practical nurses. The number of certified statements issued for both categories of licensees showed an increase over the preceding year. Viewed in conjunction with the increase in the number of original certificates issued through endorsement, the increase demonstrates the mobility of nurses.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION AND REINSTATEMENTS

The Board conducted one individual hearing because of a complaint issued against a registered nurse. The complaint was dismissed.

Two registered nurses' and three licensed practical nurses' requests for reinstatement were heard before the Board. The licensed practical nurses and one registered nurse were reinstated by vote of the members, the other registered nurse was denied reinstatement. Reinstatement requested by one licensed practical nurse was denied because of repeated failure to honor the hearing citation.

Renewal registrations were denied three registered nurses, one following hearing before the Board, the other two without hearing because of the circumstances involved.

BASIC NURSING EDUCATION IN MASSACHUSETTS

TYPES AND NUMBERS OF NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The Board of Registration in Nursing is the legal accrediting agency for educational programs preparing professional and practical nurses.

There are three distinctive types of programs whose graduates are eligible for admission to the examination for registration as professional nurses (R.N.) They are:

1. Schools of Nursing that grant the diploma, usually administered by a hospital corporation;
2. Junior or Community College Programs that grant an associate degree in nursing;
3. College or University Programs that grant a baccalaureate degree in nursing.

Practical Nursing Schools whose graduates are eligible for admission to the practical nurse licensing examination (L.P.N.) are categorized according to administrative control as hospital schools, vocational or trade school programs, and independent schools.

On June 30, 1966, there were 93 approved nursing education programs in Massachusetts. The number of each type is as follows:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| <u>Professional Nursing</u> | |
| Diploma | 47 |
| Associate Degree | 5 |
| Baccalaureate Degree | 6 |
| Total Professional Nursing Schools | <u>58</u> |
| <u>Practical Nursing</u> | |
| Hospital | 15 |
| Vocational | 17 |
| Independent | 3 |
| Total Practical Nursing Schools | <u>35</u> |

During the period covered by the report, one professional nursing school (N.E. Hospital and Sanitarium School of Nursing) and one practical nursing school (Long Island Hospital School of Nursing) officially closed.

Three additional diploma programs and the Massachusetts General Hospital-Radcliffe College Coordinated Program are in the process of closing.

One baccalaureate degree program (Northeastern University), one associate degree program (Quinsigamond Community College), and three practical nursing programs (Quincy Vocational-Technical School, Waltham Trade High School and City of Boston Department of Health and Hospitals) expect to be initiated in the Fall, 1966.

ENROLLMENT, SCHOOLS OF PROFESSIONAL NURSING

As of October 1, 1965, there were 7,469 students enrolled in professional nursing education programs of which 2,890 were admitted in the Fall, 1965.

Of the schools that admitted students in September, 1965, the largest school enrollment was 413 students, the smallest 37 students with the median enrollment 115 students.

Table 6 demonstrates a comparison of enrollment statistics for the three types of professional nursing programs for a two-year period.

| Type of Program | Total Enrollment | | Admissions | | Graduations | |
|----------------------|------------------|------|------------|------|-------------|------|
| | 1965 | 1964 | 1965 | 1964 | 1965 | 1964 |
| Diploma | 5763 | 5744 | 2238 | 2339 | 1677 | 1598 |
| Associate Degree | 449 | 257 | 286 | 201 | 37 | 27 |
| Baccalaureate Degree | 1257 | 1180 | 397 | 375 | 235 | 201 |
| Totals | 7469 | 7181 | 2921 | 2915 | 1949 | 1826 |

TABLE 6 Enrollment Statistics, Schools of Professional Nursing, 1964-1965

Fourteen percent (14%) of the professional nursing students are enrolled in government-supported institutions (city and state) with five percent (5%) being enrolled in state-supported schools

ENROLLMENT, SCHOOLS OF PRACTICAL NURSING

The annual reports of schools of practical nursing reported a total enrollment of 1,717 students on October 1, 1965, with 1394 of these having been admitted during 1965. The largest practical nursing school enrollment was 190 students, the smallest 15 students with the median enrollment being 42 students.

A comparison of practical nursing school enrollment statistics for a two-year period is presented in Table 7.

| Type of Program | Total Enrollment | | Admissions | | Graduations | |
|-----------------|------------------|------|------------|------|-------------|------|
| | 1965 | 1964 | 1965 | 1964 | 1965 | 1964 |
| Hospital | 584 | 703 | 494 | 526 | 380 | 352 |
| Vocational | 868 | 713 | 737 | 630 | 411 | 319 |
| Independent | 265 | 208 | 163 | 159 | 121 | 135 |
| Totals | 1717 | 1624 | 1394 | 1315 | 912 | 806 |

TABLE 7. Enrollment Statistics, Schools of Practical Nursing, 1964-1965.

The increase in the number of admissions to practical nursing schools occurred in the vocational and independent type programs with a slight decrease in the number of students admitted to hospital-controlled schools of practical nursing.

COST OF NURSING EDUCATION

Annual reports submitted by schools of professional nursing have shown a persistent increase in the cost of the educational program to the individual student. Tuition charges and fees paid by students vary considerably. In some situations in which room and board is available, separate charges are now levied for these services even in the hospital-administered school.

Reported tuition charges appear to provide the most accurate base for comparison of the cost of professional nursing education to the individual student. The range and median tuition charges for the three types of programs, as reported in October, 1965, are as follows:

| <u>Type of Program</u> | <u>Range of Tuitions</u> | <u>Median Tuition</u> |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Diploma | \$200.00 - \$1825.00 | \$840.00 |
| Associate Degree | 500.00 3070.00 | 1794.00 |
| Baccalaureate Degree | 800.00 5600.00 | 3680.00 |

City-supported hospital schools charge no tuition although they do identify other costs to the student.

The minimum tuitions reported by associate and baccalaureate degree programs are those charged by the state-supported institutions. These, however, enroll only 5% of professional nursing education students.

With few exceptions, practical nursing schools do not charge tuition. Other costs to students, as reported by schools, show variation as follows:

| <u>Type of Program</u> | <u>Range of Total Cost Per Student</u> | <u>Median Cost Per Student</u> |
|------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Hospital | \$122.00 - \$500.00 | \$214.00 |
| Vocational | 70.00 - 200.00 | 105.00 |
| Independent | 85.00 - 527.00 | 232.00 |

Twenty-six of the practical nursing schools, or 74% of them are supported by state funds, at least in part. Practical nursing programs financed through Manpower Development and Training Act funds (federal funds) exist in eleven of the seventeen vocational schools. There is no cost to the student enrolled under MDTA.

APPRAISAL OF NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAMS THROUGH SURVEY

By its own regulation, the Board of Registration in Nursing requires that each school of professional and practical nursing be surveyed at least every three years. Enforcement of this regulation is dependent upon an office staff adequate in size and quality to conduct effective surveys and to report findings to members of the Board. Although such a staff is not currently available, school surveys were conducted consistently during the fiscal year as follows:

Regular Surveys

Worcester Hahnemann Hospital School of Nursing
Cambridge City Hospital School of Nursing
N.E. Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing
Beverly Hospital School of Nursing
Sturdy Memorial Hospital School of Nursing
St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing (Pittsfield)
Somerville Hospital School of Nursing
Cape Cod Hospital School of Practical Nursing
Pondville Hospital School of Practical Nursing
Tewksbury Hospital School of Practical Nursing

Special Surveys

Lakeville Hospital - Pediatric Nursing Program
Diman Vocational School
Boston Floating Hospital - Pediatric Nursing Program Revisit
Hebrew Rehabilitation Center for the Aged) for Northeastern
Free Hospital for Women) University

Survey of Proposed Nursing Education Programs

Quinsigamond Community College
Waltham Trade High School

APPLICATIONS TO DEVELOP NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Five applications to develop nursing education programs were approved by the Board of Registration in Nursing during this year. Institutions submitting applications were:

Quinsigamond Community College - Professional Nursing
N.E. Sanitarium and Hospital - Practical Nursing
City of Boston Department of Health and Hospitals - Practical
Nursing
Waltham Vocational School - Practical Nursing
Quincy Vocational-Technical School - Practical Nursing

Action on one other application was deferred pending further investigation.

ACTION ON CURRICULUM REVISIONS

The Boardmembers reviewed and approved a revised curriculum submitted by each of the following schools:

Professional Nursing

Faulkner Hospital
Union Hospital
Salem Hospital
Burbank Hospital
Beverly Hospital
Lasell Junior College

Holyoke Hospital
Peter Bent Brigham Hospital
Melrose-Wakefield Hospital
St. Joseph's Hospital
Henry W. Bishop III Memorial
Atlantic Union College

Practical Nursing

David Hale Fanning Trade High School
Tewksbury Hospital

OPINIONS AND RULINGS

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

Three opinions were provided by the Attorney General in response to requests from the Board of Registration in Nursing. They are:

1. The decision to license an ex-felon rests with the Board of Registration in Nursing. Each such applicant should be considered individually.
2. The Board has the authority to license through endorsement a practical nurse licensed through examination under an "equivalency" clause in another state.
3. Section 81 (1), chapter 112 does not apply to the graduate of a school located in another state whose registration or license is pending in that state awaiting examination results.

BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN NURSING RULINGS

The following procedures and techniques as nursing functions were considered by members of the Board of Registration in Nursing:

1. Administration of Intravenous Fluids
2. Administration of Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation
3. Administration of Deep Endotracheal Suction
4. Administration of Drugs at Penal Institutions
5. Injection of Procaine
6. Hypodermoclysis Procedure
7. Tonography Procedure
8. Determination that patient expired.

Opinions or rulings determined are on file at the Board office.

LEGISLATION

INCREASE IN FEES AND BIENNIAL RENEWAL

Legislation on behalf of the Board of Registration in Nursing to increase fees and to cause biennial renewal of registrations and licenses was filed by the Office of Administration and Finance during the 1966 legislative session. The legislative proposal was not passed by the General Court.

TEMPORARY REGISTRATION

In May, 1966, the Board filed legislation to provide for temporary registration of professional nurses. This was an endeavor to accommodate foreign nurses entering the state whose employment could help to alleviate the nursing shortage. (The bill underwent revisions and Chapter 599, Acts of 1966 became law on September 2, 1966. This permits the Board to certify, as authorized to practice professional nursing, persons who meet the requirements of the statute and of the regulations established by the Board.)

CERTIFICATION OF FOREIGN NURSES PRIOR TO VISA ISSUANCE

Changes in the U.S. Immigration Law, effective December, 1965, resulted in a U.S. Labor Department regulation requiring a foreign nurse to procure a letter of evaluation from the Board of Nursing in the state of intended residence prior to the issuance of a visa.

The Board of Registration in Nursing received 186 inquiries about the procedure. 28 persons submitted credentials, 26 of whom were certified as being qualified for registration through examination.

FINANCES

BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN NURSING FEES

The Board of Registration in Nursing currently charges the following fees:

| | |
|--|---------|
| Application for R.N. | \$10.00 |
| Application for L.P.N. | 10.00 |
| Certified Statement | 2.00 |
| Evaluation of Foreign Nurse (for Visa Purposes) | 5.00 |
| Renewal; R.N. | 1.00 |
| Renewal, L.P.N. | 1.00 |

FINANCIAL STATEMENT - FISCAL 1966

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Income | \$129,870.00 |
| Expenditures: | |
| Examination Proctors | 924.00 |
| Advertising | 29.86 |
| Printing | 586.01 |
| Examination Materials | 14,258.08 |
| Shipping | 4.00 |
| Bonding Insurance | 4.00 |
| Postage | 6,911.75 |
| General Supplies | 1,967.94 |
| Telephone | 780.30 |
| Rental Fees | 895.31 |
| Salaries | 64,570.14 |
| Travel | 1,039.00 |
| Accounts Payable | 5,363.04 |
| Total Expenses | 97,333.43 |
| Difference Income and Expenses | 32,536.57 |

Eleanor A. Gaffney, R.N.
Chairman

Winifred V. Shuman, R.N.
Executive Secretary